the news-item dated 16-7-93. According to a report in the 'SCREEN' dated 6-8-93 the film industry has postponed the direct action referred to in the news-item dated 16-7-93.

The film industry's main points are—

(1) Abolition of entertainment tax;

(2) Increase in the royalty rates for feature films telecast; and

(3) streamlining the procedure for selection of feature films for telecast.

Regarding (1), entertainment tax is a State subject and it is primarily for the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to consider this.

Regarding (2), the royalty rates for telecast of Hindi and regional language feature films in the National Network of Doordarshan have been revised upwards on 8-6-93.

As for (3), it was suggested to the film industry to nominate 8 members on the selection committee for films meant for Doordarshan, but the film industry did not avail of the opportunity.

After the news-item dated 16-7-93, no dialogue between the representatives of the film industry and the Central Government has been held. However, Government are ready to discuss the problems being faced by the film industry so as to find a solution for the same.

Suresh Mathur Committee had indicated in its report the then existing rates of royalty for films and songs telecast, etc. and also the rates demanded by the film industry. The Committee had recommended that "the extent of enhancement should be determined by the Ministry of I&B in consultation with Doordarshan and film industry within a period of three months." Thereafter, the rates were revised in April 1990 and again in June 1993.

Import of Newsprint

2002. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that STC is not supplying imported newsprint; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure regular supply of imported newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) After the import of newsprint has been decanalised with effect from 1-4-1992, STC does not remain to be the canalising agent for import of newsprint. However, STC is enlisted with RNI as one of the handling agents and they can import newsprint on behalf of newspapers holding valid entitlement certificate issued by RNI.

(b) Newspapers are now allowed to import newsprint directly or through any of the handling agents functioning at present.

Delay in preparation of serials

2003. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan schedule for getting a stock of sponsored serials was likely to run into trouble as the time frame specified was not appropriate for many of the serials;

(b) if so, whether many of the serials approved by Doordarshan were prepared three years ago with different nomenclature;

(c) what are the other factors causing delay in submitting serials by the producers; and

(d) what action Government would propose in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received from a few producers to extend the time for submission of pilots on grounds of non-availability of technicians, vacation on account of summer months etc. Extension of three months has been given on such requests.